REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain in this application. Claims 5-20 are allowed. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected. Claims 3 and 4 are objected to.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the McIntyre reference. Applicant herein respectfully traverses these rejections. "Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, *arranged as in the claim.*" ***Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.***, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984) (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that the cited reference is deficient with regard to the following elements.

The Examiner has chosen to characterize the "photographic mode selection switch 30" as "a power switch for switching on or off a supply of electrical power to said sensor input; (30;figure2)." In support of this the Examiner states that "the switch controls the controller, which controls the distance beam sensor." The Examiner states that for the purpose of prosecution, "the claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allowed (sic). This means that the words of the claim must be given their plain meaning unless applicant has provided a clear definition in the specification." Applicant respectfully submits that the plain

meaning of the words relating the switch and the controller clearly distinguish the switch and controller combination from the reference.

With regard to claim 1, it is clear that the McIntyre reference fails to disclose the following combination:

> a power-supply switch for switching on or off a supply of electrical power to said sensor power input; and
>
> a control circuit for receiving and processing said sensor output and for turning off said power-supply switch in response to said control circuit accepting said sensor output from said sensor.

First, the Examiner has cited only mode switch 30 as the possible power supply switch of claim 1. Even assuming the Examiner's broad interpretation that by the mode switch 30 controlling the controller it switches power to the sensor 24 (it is noted the Examiner has not cited sensor 22 which works in conjunction with emitter 18), absolutely nothing in the reference relates that the mode switch 30 is *controlled* by the controller 40 in a manner to switch off the power supply to a sensor, whether it be sensor 22 or 24. Still further, there is nothing to suggest the plainly stated feature of the claim that the controller shut off the power switch "*in response to said control circuit accepting said sensor output from said sensor.*" Nowhere is it stated that the controller has any control over the *user operated* mode

switch. Rather, it appears clear that the reference *only* supports the user operated mode switch 30 controlling the controller. Col. 5. lines 32-53.

Furthermore with regard to the power switch of claim 1, even the Examiner's broad interpretation that the mode switch 30 controls power to a *sensor* is not supported by the reference. In a broad sense the "close up mode" setting of the mode switch 30 can "disable" the *emitter* 18. Col. 5, lines 35-41, but this does not suggest to disconnect power to either sensor or even the emitter 18.

It is clear from the reference that the controller 40 merely has "connection lines" individually extending to the emitter 18 and the sensors 22 and 24. The reference does not state that these are power supply lines. In fact, it is clear from Fig. 2 that an independent power line extends from the power source 48 to the emitter 18 and this line is free of any switches. In contrast, the distance beam sensor 22 is illustrated without a power line extending to it. While power lines are often omitted in schematics to avoid confusion, it is also possible that the sensor 22 is a passive sensor which is photovoltaic and generates it own output voltage which is read. Such operation would be similar to that of a solar cell. Hence, there is no teaching of a power supply to either of the sensors, or a switch controlling it, and nor is it inherent since the sensors could be a passive sensors. Thus, the switch 30 cannot be read as controlling switched power to the emitter 18 and it cannot be read as switching power to the distance beam sensor 18 or the ambient light sensor

24, as neither of these is shown as requiring a power input. The Examiner is reminded that supplying power to a circuit is not the same as activating a circuit using a control line.

With regard to claim 2, the sensor is recited has including a light projection means. As stated above, it is clear that the power line goes directly to the emitter 18 and is absent a switch.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 2 particularly describe and distinctly claim elements not disclosed in the cited reference. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1 and 2 and the objections to claims 3 and 4, and their allowance are respectfully requested.

In accordance with MPEP 706.02(j), when a claim is rejected the Examiner should set forth "the relevant teachings of the prior art relied upon, preferable with reference to the relevant column or page number(s) and line number(s)." In order for the applicant to respond appropriately, it is respectfully requested that, in the event the pending claims are again rejected based on the cited reference, the Examiner set forth the relevant teachings in the cited references with reference to relevant column and line numbers or reference designators.

For the convenience of the Examiner, APPENDIX I is provided herewith having a complete set of pending claims with all amendments effected therein.

Applicant respectfully requests a one month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. Please charge the fee of $110.00 for the extension of time to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

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APPENDIX I

ALL PENDING CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS EFFECTED THEREIN

1. (Previously Presented) A sensor system comprising:

a sensor having a sensor power input and an output for supplying a sensor output;

a controller including:

a power-supply switch for switching on or off a supply of electrical power to said sensor power input; and

a control circuit for receiving and processing said sensor output and for turning off said power-supply switch in response to said control circuit accepting said sensor output from said sensor.

2. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 1, wherein said sensor is a distance measurement sensor including a light projection means, a driver circuit for supplying an emission signal to said light projection means, and a light-receiving means for receiving light arising from light projected from said light projection means, and wherein said controller starts acceptance of the sensor output from said sensor according to said emission signal.

3. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 2, wherein:

said sensor includes an open collector type output terminal as said output for producing said sensor output,

said controller further includes a series combination of a resistor and a switching means,

said series combination is connected between said output terminal and a power supply, and a voltage developed at a terminal between said series combination and said output terminal is accepted as the sensor output from said sensor, and

said control circuit turns on or off said switching means based on operation of said emission signal.

4. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said controller enters a standby state of low power consumption in response to an end of said processing of said sensor output.

5. (Previously Presented) A sensor system comprising:

a sensor module having a sensor module power input and an output for supplying a sensor module output;

a sensor module power-supply switch for switching on or off a supply of electrical power to said sensor module power input;

a control circuit for receiving and processing said sensor module output and providing a processed output; and

said control circuit including means for detecting completion of reception of said sensor module output and for turning off said sensor module power-supply switch in response to the detection of completion and prior to said control circuit processing said sensor module output.

6. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 5 wherein:

said sensor module includes:

a sensor element; and

a sensing circuit for processing an output signal from said sensor element to provide said sensor module output and for outputting an output indicating signal signifying a start of output of said sensor module output;

said control circuit including:

a data line switch controlling power to a data line receiving said sensor module output to enable reading of said sensor module output; and

a data line control means for setting said data line switch to enable reading of said sensor module output in response to receiving said output indicating signal.

7. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 6 wherein said data line control means sets said data line switch to disable reading said sensor module output in response to the detection of completion and prior to said control circuit processing said sensor module output.

8. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 7 wherein said sensor module includes:

an emitting element for sending out an emission to be sensed by said sensor element; and

said sensing circuit including a drive circuit producing a drive signal for driving said emitting element and driving generation of said output indicating signal.

9. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 8 wherein said drive signal and said output indicating signal are formed of a number of pulses and said data line control means recognizes completion of said number of pulses to set said data line switch to enable reading of said sensor module output.

10. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 8 wherein said emitting element is a light generating device and said sensor element is a light detecting device.

11. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 7 wherein said sensor module includes:

an emitting element for sending out an emission to be sensed by said sensor element; and

said sensing circuit including a first output supplying said output indicating signal and a second output for a drive circuit to output a drive signal for driving said emitting element.

12. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 11 wherein said emitting element is a light generating device and said sensor element is a light detecting device.

13. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 7 wherein said sensor module includes:

an emitting element for sending out an emission of light to be sensed by said sensor element;

said sensing circuit including a drive circuit to output a drive signal for driving said emitting element; and

said sensor element is a light detection device.

14. (Previously Presented) A sensor system comprising:

a sensor module including:

a sensor element; and

a sensing circuit for processing an output signal from said sensor element to provide a sensor module output and for outputting an output indicating signal signifying a start of output of said sensor module output; and

a control circuit for receiving and processing said sensor module output and providing a processed output, said control circuit including:

a data line switch controlling power to a data line receiving said sensor module output to enable reading of said sensor module output; and

a data line control means for setting said data line switch to enable reading of said sensor module output in response to receiving said output indicating signal.

15. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 14 wherein said sensor module includes:

an emitting element for sending out an emission to be sensed by said sensor element;

said sensing circuit including a drive circuit producing a drive signal for driving said emitting element and driving generation of said output indicating signal.

16. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 14 wherein:

said control circuit include means for detecting completion of reception of said sensor module output; and

said data line control means sets said data line switch to disable reading said sensor module output in response to the detection of completion and prior to said control circuit processing said sensor module output.

17. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 16 wherein said sensor module includes:

an emitting element for sending out an emission to be sensed by said sensor element; and

said sensing circuit including a drive circuit producing a drive signal for driving said emitting element and driving generation of said output indicating signal.

18. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 17 wherein said drive signal and said output indicating signal are formed of a number of pulses and said data line control means recognizes completion of said number of pulses to set said data line switch to enable reading of said sensor module output.

19. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 17 wherein said emitting element is a light generating device and said sensor element is a light detecting device.

20. (Previously Presented) The sensor system of claim 16 wherein said sensor module includes:

an emitting element for sending out an emission to be sensed by said sensor element; and

said sensing circuit including a first output supplying said output indicating signal and a second output for a drive circuit to output a drive signal for driving said emitting element.